

Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education Program

Working Together to Protect Children's Health

Are you opening a new child care center in Missouri? When choosing a location for an early care and education (ECE) facility, it is important to consider nearby environmental concerns that may have the potential to cause harm to children's health while in your care. The Missouri Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE) program works with professionals in ECEs, public health, child care licensing, and the community to create practices to help keep local kids safe.

The services provided through this voluntary program are FREE.

We're here to help!

Children spend the majority of their day either in the home, in a child care center, or at school. Therefore, it's important to take action to ensure they are safe from environmental hazards. Even if they meet current licensing regulations, ECE programs may be located in places where children and staff come in contact with contaminants. It is important to consider this when selecting a location for an ECE facility, which is how the CSP program can help.

Chemical hazards may be hard to detect.

Chemical hazards may not be known or obvious at a site; therefore, the best thing to do is understand the history of your property. Chemicals from previous businesses may pose contamination risks and neighboring businesses may use chemicals that could migrate onto your property and present a health risk to the children enrolled at your ECE.

Things to consider:

- Were harmful chemicals ever used, made, or dumped at the site?
- Are businesses using harmful chemicals near the site?
- Is the site at risk for naturally occurring contaminants?
- Is the drinking water safe?

Simple actions can help keep kids safe.

Missouri CSP is a voluntary program that compliments but does not replace state and local regulations. The program is designed to evaluate necessary information about your property to help determine if it has the potential to be at risk for environmental contaminants. After your property questionnaire is reviewed, you will be notified with additional information or resources to ensure your site is safe for the children in your care.



Begin by filling out the short property questionnaire by visiting:

HEALTH.MO.GOV/CSP

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services • Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology
Health and Risk Assessment Program • 573-751-6102

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Individuals who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or have a speech disability can dial 711 or 1-800-735-2966.

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